

physic (*Gillenia stipulata*) occurs at two sites: just west of a powerline clearing on the eastern slope (near an old roadbed), and at the western base of the mountain under an electric line clearing adjacent to Moores Mill Road.

PROTECTION AND MANAGEMENT: The natural area is unfortunately parceled into a few dozen owners, making protection of the entire site difficult. The ridgeline of the mountain has been subdivided into so many small tracts that, even where not yet built upon, protection efforts at the top of the mountain are unlikely or would be difficult. Fortunately, there are a handful of tracts on the middle and lower slopes that contain 50-100 acres of currently undeveloped and un-timbered land. Though each tract barely comprises 15% of the total natural area, some start to protection of this natural area could begin with a conservation agreement such as an easement. In the past few years (since 1998), the entire northern knoll, which represented the northern 25% of the old natural area boundary, was clearcut, and thus the original boundary of the site has been reduced. The ridgeline of the mountain has also been excluded from the natural area boundary. It is hoped that no further timbering on the mountain is done, and that future development is limited to sites along the existing road. Otherwise, the natural area needs no management, and the forest should continue to reach maturity.

NATURAL COMMUNITIES: Dry Oak-Hickory Forest (Piedmont Upland variant), Dry-Mesic Oak-Hickory Forest (Piedmont Upland variant).

RARE PLANTS: Indian physic (*Gillenia stipulata*).

RARE ANIMALS: None known.

REFERENCES:

- Kelly, A., and Z. Murrell. 1992. Site survey report: Mt. Tirzah Oak-Hickory Forest. N.C. Natural Heritage Program, Raleigh.
- Smith, I.K., H.E. LeGrand, Jr., S.P. Hall, Z.E. Murrell, C.W. Nordman, and M.P. Schafale. 1993. Regional Inventory for Critical Natural Areas, Wetland Ecosystems, and Endangered Species Habitats of the Albemarle-Pamlico Estuarine Region: Phase 3. A/P Report No. 92-21. N.C. Dept. of Environment, Health, and Natural Resources.